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Security Information

17 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Collection and Dissemination


SUBJECT: Comments on State Policy on Release of Briefing Papers to CIA

REFERENCE: AD/CD memorandum of 14 July 1952

1. Fisher Howe's letter makes it clear that CIA will receive the reports of what happened and what was agreed on at international meetings and discussions. We will also continue to receive cable traffic, which will include references to these meetings and the problems discussed. The only materials which are denied CIA by Mr. Howe's letter are the Secretary's briefing papers. It is my understanding that these papers are generally no longer the substantive "position papers" that they used to be. They are now usually brief tactical suggestions for the Secretary's guidance in conducting the discussions.

2. I am also informed that these briefing papers are sent to the Intelligence area in State and that they intend to screen them and forward those of a more substantive intelligence nature to CIA. What we will miss, therefore, is a certain amount of flavor which might assist in interpreting the actions of the foreign conferees and an additional insight (perhaps beyond that contained in the cable traffic) into proposed U. S. positions prior to international negotiation.

3. These factors seem to be relatively minor, and we will have an opportunity to influence them through the "R" area. In the light of the above it seems to me that we should accept State's position for the time being and not comment until we have specific complaints regarding the implementation of their policy.


Acting Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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